

MISCELLANEOUS

ADDITIONS TO EXTENSION LECTURES

For other lectures, see November and February numbers of the Journal.

HAROLD W. WRIGHT,

Flood Building, San Francisco.

I—The Psychoses of the Puerperal State:

Toxic-exhaustive syndromes and manic-depressive syndromes; differential diagnosis; factors influencing prognosis and course of disorder and liability to recurrence. Case reports illustrative of the above.

II—The Insanity of Adolescence: (Dementia Praecox)

Historical survey; premonitory symptoms; clinical types; differential diagnosis.

III—The Prognosis in Various Mental Diseases:

Toxic; organic; functional; traumatic; developmental. The type of original personality in relation to prognosis. The need of observation facilities in general hospitals prior to decision as to commitments as a humane and an economic measure.

The Ernest H. Baynes Lecture on "The Truth About Vivisection"—On page 73 of the February number of the Journal announcement is made of the 1922 popular medical lectures given by Stanford University at Lane Hall. All of these lectures are very much worth while to members of the medical profession and to the public. Mr. Baynes' lecture is of particular interest and of the very greatest importance to every citizen of the State, because this matter is making its usual perennial appearance before the voters of California. It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend this particular lecture, the date being Friday, March 10, 1922.

Private Lectures in Ophthalmology—A group of ophthalmologists of San Francisco are making arrangements to have Professor Fuchs of Vienna give a private course of lectures to ophthalmologists during his visit here as the guest of the California Academy of Medicine in June. Invitation is extended to members of the State Society throughout the State to avail themselves of this opportunity. Any wishing to take this course should write to Dr. Harold A. Fletcher, 804 Butler Building, San Francisco, for particulars.

Socialized Medicine—"That there are influences in this country which are bent on bringing all the people's affairs under official scrutiny, is most apparent from the efforts now being made to create a sentiment in favor of 'State medicine.' This means simply: more jobs, no privacy, curtailment of freedom, the destruction of the medical profession by the discouragement of research work, and the coarsening of delicate intimacies. It means practically that what the United States Shipping Board did to the shipping situation of the country, 'State medicine' would be permitted to do to the people's health.

"Between family physicians and families there is a confidential relation which rests on choice and experience. It is not official. It is not altogether professional. It partakes of the confessional in large degree, and constitutes a friendly pact based on the experience of many fights with disease and

death. So well recognized is this that the family physician has become a fixed figure in our lives, and with results of undoubted good, as the records generally show.

"To change all this and establish a police health station, as it were, at which citizens must apply for medical aid and await the pleasure of an official doctor who is paid anyway, and whose professional career does not depend on the confidence he is able to evoke by skilled and loyal service, is to suggest something which is so alien to our Americanism as almost to prove an alien course and an alien purpose."—(Editorial from Dearborn Independent.)

Vacancies in the Regular Corps of the U. S. Public Health Service—Examinations of candidates for entrance into the Regular Corps of the U. S. Public Health Service will be held at the following named place on the date specified: At San Francisco, Calif., March 13, 1922. Candidates must not be less than twenty-three years nor more than thirty-two, and they must have been graduated in medicine at some reputable medical college, and have had one year's hospital experience or two years in professional practice. They must pass satisfactorily oral, written, and clinical tests before a board of medical officers. Successful candidates will be recommended for appointment by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Requests for information or permission to take this examination should be addressed to the Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

Physical Standards for Children—According to the United States Public Health Service, "The common test of a child's health development, and about the only test that can readily be applied to children in mass, is to ascertain by some standard table of age-weights prepared for the purpose, whether or not they weigh as much as they should at their age. If the child is 10 per cent or more under standard, it is considered to be under-nourished and is treated accordingly.

"This, however, may or may not be the case, for the standard tables are largely approximations. Nevertheless, they serve a useful purpose, pending the establishment of more accurate and scientific standards, by calling attention to individual children and causing a more careful examination to determine whether the sub-standard weight is due to a remediable cause.

"Some of the age-weight standards used in the United States are merely averages of all classes of children, including with the well those who have hampering physical defects and those who are actually under-nourished. They probably never did apply to all parts of the United States, and quite possibly they no longer apply even to the particular part for which they were originally devised."

This quotation from the U. S. Public Health Service expresses mildly and conservatively a problem that is being daily amplified by the enthusiasm of statistical standardization experts. Inquiries from physicians from all over the State and from intelligent citizens show that the so-called standards are being interpreted too literally and not always by competent observers. We have the definite assurance of pediatricians of uncommon ability that some of the finest, healthiest specimens of children in the State of California are pronounced "under-standard" or "under-nourished," and parents and friends are made anxious over an ever-increasing number of perfectly healthy children.